Northeast Wisconsin Forest Pest Update – 11/17/08

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Insects:

Asian Long Horned Beetle in Massachusetts – from Bill McNee. Asian long horned beetle (ALB) has not been detected in Wisconsin, but the developing story in Massachusetts is worth mentioning here. Note: Wisconsin has native beetles (right) that look very similar to ALB (below).


Pine Sawyer. Photo by Kate Lenz

The battle with ALB continues in Worcester, Massachusetts. This beetle infests a variety of hardwoods including maple. The first confirmation of the infestation in MA occurred in mid-August, and the known number of infested trees currently stands at 3,200. Currently, the plan is to cut and chip the infested trees in an attempt to eradicate the insect, at an estimated cost of $30-35 million for the first year's activities. Should ALB escape into the nearby New England hardwood forest, it would have a dramatic impact on New England's timber, tourism and maple syrup industries.

Making the story even more interesting, scientists have confirmed that a specimen given to a local pest control company by a homeowner in 1997 is in fact ALB. The unidentified specimen was even part of a prize-winning insect collection in 1998, according to a local newspaper.

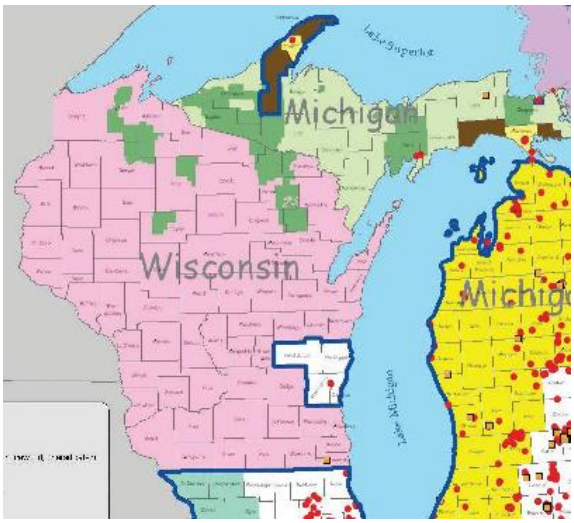
Unfortunately, this infestation shows how well-established exotic pests can be prior to discovery. A beetle that is over an inch long, doesn't fly very far and leaves large exit holes on the tree trunks took over a decade to 'find' in just one of the thousands of infested trees.

ALB-infested firewood from the Worcester area was recently found in Rhode Island. Rhode Island. Although ALB has not been identified in Wisconsin it's always a good idea to keep your eyes open!

For a little ALB humor, watch this video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaVxIcmrG1I

EAB found again in Wisconsin – from Bill McNee. Mid-October brought another EAB detection, this time in two recently-planted ash trees in rural Kenosha County. In August, the trees were brought from Illinois in violation of the emerald ash borer quarantines. This is at the tail end of the EAB adult flight period, so the risk of adult emergence from these trees following planting is currently believed to be low. There is very little ash in the vicinity of the planting site, and surveys in the area did not find any signs of additional infested ash trees. The two trees have now been destroyed. Here's the press release announcing the find: http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov/pdf/KenoshaEAB.pdf.

EAB found again in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan – from Bill McNee. Last month's pest update reported an EAB find in Delta County at Garden Corners (east of Escanaba). Since then, there have been several additional finds within a few miles. One is at Cooks, only 4 miles away but in Schoolcraft County. This brings to five the number of U.P. counties where EAB infestations have been found. Portions of Schoolcraft and Delta Counties have been quarantined although the map at right does not show it yet. A map of the quarantined areas of the U.P. can be found at www.michigan.gov/eab.



The Michigan Dept. of Agriculture has decided to focus its EAB efforts in the Upper Peninsula. Their quarantines have been changed so that ash wood and firewood can now be moved anywhere within Lower Michigan (although long-distance movement is still discouraged). This wood still cannot cross the Mackinac Bridge into the U.P. More information on the EAB situation in Michigan can be found at: www.michigan.gov/eab.

EAB surveys continue in Wisconsin – from Bill McNee. DATCP survey crews continue to examine the Newburg area, where EAB was first detected in Wisconsin, for signs of additional infestations. During the initial visual survey of ash trees within 10 miles of Newburg, 148 locations (individual trees or clusters) were identified for further examination. The follow-up inspection of these points is two-thirds complete and is expected to conclude within two weeks. Many of those trees have been ruled out as infested, while others may require peeling. Some

trees may house purple sticky traps next year. To date no additional EAB infestations have been found.

An interesting fact: EAB has been found in over 50 Illinois communities since that state's first EAB find just 2 years ago in 2006.

DATCP's destructive tree survey is also underway. The following counties have been completed: Adams, Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Monroe, Ozaukee, Portage, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. Work is currently underway in Iowa, Manitowoc, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties. No additional EAB infestations have been found to date. This will be the last year that DATCP will be doing destructive surveys and they will instead be using the purple traps as their primary detection tool.

The DNR's detection tree project in 25 State Parks and Forests is complete for this year, and no EAB larvae were found during peeling of 6 detection trees per property. Over 150 detection trees remain for peeling in future years. In addition, no EAB adults were caught on purple sticky traps hung at 24 of the state properties.

EAB Pesticide Option for Wisconsin – from Bill McNee. DATCP has issued a special local need registration ("Section 24c") for an unregistered product called 'TREE-äge.' This special registration allows for injection of the product into the trunks of ash trees (*Fraxinus* species) for control of EAB in Wisconsin. DATCP previously issued a different Section 24c for use of 'Safari' as a trunk spray for EAB earlier this year. The special registration for TREE-äge can be found at http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/arm/agriculture/pest-fert/pesticides/pdf/TREE-age.pdf

EAB Reporting in WI: Suspicious trees should be reported to the EAB hotline by calling 1-800-462-2803. Reports can also be emailed to eab@datcp.state.wi.us. DATCP and/or DNR staff will visit symptomatic sites.

Fall Cankerworm Moths – sometimes called hunters moths these small brown/tan moths are flying now and I've had several reports from around Oconto County. These moths look very similar to Bruce Spanworm moths which are also flying now. The female moths of both species are flightless (actually wingless) so the flying moths are all males. In areas where you see lots of moths this fall keep your eyes open next spring for the caterpillars and defoliation. Bruce Spanworm caterpillars prefer to feed on sugar maple while Fall Cankerworm will feed on a variety of hardwoods.

Gypsy moth trapping maps completed – from Bill McNee. The final 2008 Wisconsin gypsy moth trapping maps have been released by the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Trap catches have increased dramatically in western and northwestern Wisconsin, while declining catches in central Wisconsin (Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake Cos.) parallel declining public calls and interest in aerial spraying. The true population changes are probably clouded by this past spring's wet weather causing heavy caterpillar mortality, particularly to the large female caterpillars. With fewer female moths giving off pheromone to attract males, more males may have made their way into the traps. A color map showing smoothed catches and individual trap results is available at: http://da.ento.vt.edu/results3.html.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program application deadline approaching – from Bill McNee. For those landowners and local governments that are interested in participating in the DNR gypsy moth suppression program to spray next spring, this year's deadline for counties to apply is Friday, December 5. Program applications are available at: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/gm/grants.htm. Contact Bill McNee (920-662-5430 or bill.mcnee@wisconsin.gov) if you have any questions about the program.

Gypsy moth egg mass control – from Bill McNee. Now is a good time to get out and look for egg masses to predict next year's infestation levels. Egg masses within reach can be removed and drowned in soapy water, or treated with horticultural oils available at many garden centers. If there are many egg masses, oil or remove those within reach and consider applying physical controls such as sticky barriers and burlap bands next spring when the caterpillars are present. Insecticide treatments from the ground or air may also be appropriate to control caterpillars next spring.

Egg mass oils should be applied according to the label's instructions. Typically, these oils are applied when temperatures are above 40^{o} and there is no danger of freezing. They can also be applied in the spring in the weeks prior to gypsy moth egg hatch.

Information on gypsy moth control methods and how to conduct egg mass surveys can be found online at gypsymoth.wi.gov.

Twice Stabbed ladybeetle.
Photo by Joyce Gross, UC Berkeley

Native ladybugs – several people have asked me recently if we have any native ladybugs left or if the Asian ladybugs have completely taken over. We do indeed still have native ladybugs here! But our native ladybugs do not have population explosions like the exotic Multicolored Asian ladybug. Additionally, you have to look harder for our native ladybugs because our native ladybugs generally do not congregate in your house or garage, so you have to search the fields and plants to find them. Another reason people don't think we have native ladybugs is that not all of our native ladybugs are large, round, and orange or red colored. Some are small and black, or sometimes they're a pale yellow, or even grey in color (which the ladybug world calls "beige"). Sometimes they're a light color with black spots but the black ladybugs usually have red spots if they have spots at all. The photos show some of our native ladybugs, the Twice Stabbed ladybeetle (right top), the Two Spotted ladybeetle (right) and the Pink Spotted ladybug (left), all feed on aphids.


Pink Spotted ladybug. Photo by David Cappaert, MSU

Two Spotted ladybeetle. Photo by S.A. Marshall

Winged Ants – prior to the cold weather my neighbor experienced a mass emergence of winged ants at his house. He took some photos and sent them to me, knowing how much I enjoy cool bug photos. As ant colonies grow they occasionally produce winged ants (some females, some males) that disperse to start up new colonies. Emergence of winged ants is synchronized across broad areas to facilitate mating and often follows days of rain. The winged ants emerge, fly away from the nest, mate and hope to find a place to make a new nest. The males die after mating. Mated females shed their wings after mating and will attempt to find a suitable place to start a new colony. In the photo you can see large winged females, smaller winged males, and even smaller worker ants which have no wings and will not be dispersing.

Photo by Mike Kamke

Diseases:

Nectria Canker on Beech – Derek Sokoloski sent me this wonderful photo (right) of a beech tree with numerous Nectria Cankers on the stem.

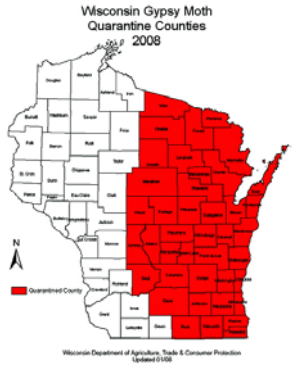
Nectria cankers are sometimes called the target canker because of the concentric ridges that form on the canker face, giving it the look of a target. Nectria cankers are perennial and live for many years, growing a bit larger each year. Nectria can infect many species of hardwoods. Spores are able to get into a tree through open wounds and branch stubs. Cankers that occur on branches may girdle the branch fairly quickly. Cankers growing on the main stem can become very misshapen over the years (left).

White Trunk Rot of Aspen - this is a canker rot of aspen. These fungi are capable of spreading throughout the wood that is present at the time of infection but can also continue to spread into new wood as the tree continues to grow from year to year. This decay is not easily detected unless you know what to look for. If you see the tan colored fruiting body of this disease emerging from the tree at a branch wound (right) you can be sure that the tree has rot within it. Since this is a canker rot fungi the tree will never recover and the area of rot within the tree will continue to enlarge as the years go by. In the photo at left you can see 2 fruiting bodies (red arrows) and you can easily see the rot within the stem.

Other:

Firewood movement and quarantines – from Bill McNee. Now that gun deer season is about to start, you may receive calls about firewood movement. Encourage the public to buy firewood near where they plan to burn it, and to not move firewood long distances because of the risk of spreading pests and diseases such as emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and oak wilt. Although it may be legal, we don't recommend long-distance firewood movement.

Hardwood firewood can't be moved out of the four counties quarantined for emerald ash borer (Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, and Sheboygan Counties). It may be moved from another Wisconsin county **through** these four quarantined counties as long as the only stops are for fuel (a new clarification). A nice FAQ sheet about firewood and the quarantine is available at http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/PDF/EAB_FAQ_Firewood.pdf An up to date firewood quarantine poster is available at: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/pdf/FirewoodQuarantineWI.pdf.



There is also a gypsy moth quarantine to consider when moving firewood. The easiest way to interpret the rules is to use the gypsy moth quarantine map. Wood from any red county in the map at right may be moved into any other red county or Michigan. Wood from a red county can't go to a white county without inspection. A printable map of the quarantined counties is available online at gypsymoth.wi.gov . The EAB quarantine is in addition to the gypsy moth quarantine for those counties that are quarantined for EAB (currently Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties) please refer to EAB rules above.

Effective October 22, the federal government banned the import of untreated hardwood firewood from Canada. Imported wood must be heat-treated to 160^{O} F for 75 minutes to kill hitchhiking pests.

How to save and search these pest updates – if you want an easy way to search the pest updates for a topic just save them to a folder on your hard drive. Then, when you want to search for something go into My Documents or File Manager, find the folder where you put all of the pest updates and right click on that folder. Choose "Search" from the menu box that pops up. You can search for a file name (the first box you see) or you can search for a word within the files (the 2nd box you see). If you want to search for ash yellows just type "ash yellows" into the 2nd box and it will list all the issues that mention ash yellows.

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Note: This pest update covers forest health issues occurring in Northeastern Wisconsin. This informal newsletter is created to provide up-to-date information to foresters, landowners, and others on forest health issues. If you have insect or disease issues to report in areas other than northeastern Wisconsin please report them to your local extension agent, state entomologist or pathologist, or area forest pest specialist.